

21st Coffs Coast Gold Congress at Opal Cove Resort



3

Friday 14 August 2026

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Good seeding!

The three money prizes in the Open Pairs went to the top three seeds.

George Kozakos and **Hugh Grosvenor** scored twin 20s before lunch, then two draw-ish matches in the afternoon saw them home. Here's a board from one of their big wins:

Pairs 6, Bd 20

W/Both ♠ K Q 6 4 3
♥ K J 9
♦ K 9 4
♣ 10 7

♠ 7
♥ 5 3
♦ J 7 6 5 2
♣ A K 9 5 4

♠ 5 2
♥ A Q 8 6 4 2
♦ 10
♣ J 8 6 3

♠ A J 10 9 8
♥ 10 7
♦ A Q 8 3
♣ Q 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
George		Hugh	
	1♠	nb	3♣ *
dbl	3♠	5♣	dbl
end			

3♣ was some sort of Bergen-style raise, letting West into the auction. 5♣x made on trumps 2-2 with hearts coming in.

4♠ usually made. Very few Easts led a club. 35 Norths played 4♠ on the ♦10 lead. 17 made it easily enough by managing diamonds for four tricks to pitch a club.



George Kozakos
and Hugh Grosvenor
Open Pairs winners

18 went down. While not wishing to cast aspersions, the declarers at the top tables generally made it, while those at the bottom often failed.

(Datums yesterday came from scores at the **top 12 tables**)

Pairs 8, Bd 22

E/EW ♠ 9 7 6
♥ K Q 2
♦ A K Q J
♣ 9 8 5

♠ K 8 5 3 2
♥ 10 9
♦ 10 9 7 6 5
♣ A

♠ Q J
♥ 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 4 3 2
♣ Q 4

♠ A 10 4
♥ A J
♦ 8
♣ K J 10 7 6 3 2

6♣ is the sort of slam you don't mind being in. Four Open pairs had a go,

Timetable

Friday morning forums

Fri 9.30 Directors' forum
14

10.30 Workshop
with Joan Butts

Teams (8 x 14 bds)

Fri 2 pm Teams 1 & 2
14

Sat 9.30 Teams 3 & 4
15 Buffet lunch
2.15pm Teams 5 & 6

Sun 9 am Teams 7 & 8
16 (Play will end at 12.30)
Prize-giving

maybe after 1♣ : 1♦ : 3♣. If 4♣ is Minorwood, that might work.

Two of them made easily enough, while two went down. Looks easy enough on a heart lead. Win in dummy then run the ♣9 seems percentage. Strange.

The other failing declarer got a spade lead to the ace. You cash ♦AK then wonder which red suit might be breaking 6-2. If you try to cash three hearts, West ruffs with the ace of trumps, leaving you unable to pick up East's ♣Q. Unlucky?

Teams starts today at 2pm.

(Make your own lunch arrangements)

Directors' forum at 9.30.

Workshop
with Joan Butts at 10.30

Final top 10 in Open Pairs (116 pairs)

1	Hugh Grosvenor / George Kozakos (2)	117.21
2	Sam Coutts / Justin Williams (3)	113.80
3	Magnus Moren / Justin Mill (1)	112.56
4	Tony Nunn / Martin Bloom (7)	111.11
5	Jennifer Rothwell / George Bilski (20)	110.64
6	Andrew Peake / Giselle Mundell (9)	110.22
7	Andrew Mill / Annette Maluish (22)	107.05
8	David Beauchamp / Nick Fahrer (5)	105.48
9	Mike Doecke / James Coutts (4)	105.43
10	Chris Ingham / Dave Munro (31)	99.41

Final Top 10 in Intermediate (64 pairs)

1	Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis (23)	114.58
2	Eric Baker / Brian Glover (8)	113.40
3	Mary Poynten / Tony White (5)	113.30
4	Sandy Carter / Nerida Gillies (10)	104.23
5	Jenny Barnes / Fiona Fawcett (22)	104.08
6	Kerry Rymer / Kit Meyers (19)	102.17
7	Vincia Martin / Giles Martin (28)	100.99
8	Peta Drake / Jane Biscoe (25)	100.20
9	Will Polak / Brendan Quach (50)	95.19
10	Juliet Rogers / Peter Schmidt (26)	94.92

Seven declarers in 3NT went down on a spade lead. You make if you win the ♠A at trick one but it looks normal to duck a couple of times. Unlucky!

Pairs 7, Bd 5

N/NS

♠ Q J 3	♠ A K 9 7 5
♥ Q 10 8	♥ A 4
♦ A Q 3	♦ K 7 4 2
♣ Q J 10 5	♣ A 2

♠ 4	♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ K J 9 8 7	♥ 5 3 2
♦ J 10 8 6	♦ 9 5
♣ 8 6 4	♣ K 9 7 3

Five declarers made 4♥ on the ♣Q lead. David Beauchamp returned a club at trick two, looking like someone who wanted to ruff a club in dummy. South obliged by rising the ♣K to switch to a trump.

♠AK and three rounds of trumps put North on lead. Declarer ruffed the club continuation to lead the ♦J to North's ace.

Another club ruff with declarer's last trump brought the moment of truth. When the ♦10 pinned South's nine, the suit came in.

Pair 5, Bd 1

N/Nil

♠ K 8 4 3	♠ A Q 2
♥ Q 6 3	♥ J 10 8 4 2
♦ 10 8 6	♦ J
♣ K 9 7	♣ Q J 10 5

♠ 10 7	♠ J 9 6 5
♥ A K 9	♥ 7 5
♦ A 7 5 3	♦ K Q 9 4 2
♣ 8 6 4 3	♣ A 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	nb	1♥	nb
2♠ *	nb	4♥	end

Criss-cross major raises are common in Australia. 1♥ - 2♠ is a 3-card limit+ raise. 1♠ - 3♥ is similar.

The method is rare elsewhere and nothing to do with Bergen. (Do you still play Bergen raises? They are largely out of favour overseas.)



Jenny McGowan
and Vanessa Brewis
won the Intermediate Pairs

Anyway, should South lead the ♦K or the ♣A? The diamond king is safe enough but you won't get rich there. Of the 20 Open declarers in 4♥, 11 got a diamond lead, nine the ♣A.

This time the defenders at the top of field were preferring constructive safety while those at the bottom tended to fling out the ace.

Modern analysis suggests that ace-doubleton leads are big winners but note that the analysis is based on **double dummy** results.

For example:

♥ A 7	♥ K 6 5 4	♥ J 10 5
	♥ Q 9 8 2	

The ♥A lead "doesn't cost" because the Deep-finessing declarer will play the suit for one loser anyway.



Justin Williams
and Sam Coutts
2nd in Open Pairs

From Mariana:

Try explaining to a Roman that an XL size is bigger than an L.



Brendan Quach
and Nigel (Will?) Polak
Under 300 MP winners
(also 9th in Intermediate Pairs)

Organiser

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Convener - Helen Blewitt
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Accommodation

Jon Doland – 0407 904 600

Opal Cove - 02 6651 0553

Directors

Laurie Kelso, Peter Hume
Ronnie Ng, Jan Peach

Reviewer - Nick Hughes

(who can be asked to check that the Directors have followed the correct **procedure**)

Review Consultants

Hugh Grosvenor, Kim Morrison
(Speak to one of them if you think the directors might have made an **incorrect ruling** at your table)

Recorders

Kim Frazer and Bob Sebesfi
(If you have concerns about **behaviour** and other events at the table)



Eric Baker & Brian Glover
2nd in Intermediate Pairs